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“to enjoy the luxury of *retribution*,” that “another *arbitrary act charged upon Laud* was his attempt to force upon the foreign Protestants,” &c., and find an important chapter rounded off with a reference to “the *majestic ears* of the Long Parliament,” we cannot doubt to whom the credit of such rhetoric belongs.

May all apologies for such characters as Laud be so written!

11. — *Report of the Engineer and Artillery Operations of the Army of the Potomac, from its Organization to the Close of the Peninsular Campaign.* By Brig.-Gen. J. G. BARNARD, Chief Engineer, and Brig.-Gen. W. F. BARRY, Chief of Artillery. Illustrated by eighteen Maps, Plans, etc. New York: D. Van Nostrand. 1863.

NEXT to General McClellan's Report, this book is the most valuable to students of the history of the army of the Potomac of all that have as yet been published. It begins with General Barnard's Report, addressed to General McClellan's Chief of Staff, and dated January 26, 1863. This Report opens with an interesting, though very brief, statement of the theory of the series of works which constitute the defences of Washington, and a description, equally brief, of the times and manner of their commencement and completion. This is followed by a statement of the way in which the engineer forces attached to the army of the Potomac were constituted during its campaign on the Peninsula. Next comes an admirable description of the Chickahominy, considered as a military obstacle, from which the reader may form an accurate idea of the river, the swamp and bottom-land which border it, and the neighboring highlands. The rest of this Report consists mainly of an account of the part taken by the Engineer forces in the advance on Richmond, in the movements executed by the army in the “Seven Days,” in the construction of a defensive line at Harrison's Landing, and in the withdrawal of the army from the Peninsula. The engineering operations at the siege of Yorktown are described in another Report of General Barnard, printed later in the volume, p. 136. General Barnard's reports, and the sub-reports made to him, contain abundant and valuable information upon the subjects of the building and making of military bridges and roads.

Next comes Colonel Alexander's Report of the operations upon which he was engaged between April 20th and May 12th, 1862. This Report is clear, interesting, and altogether a most agreeable specimen of military writing. It gives a full and minute description of the plans devised and successfully followed by Colonel Alexander, for landing troops and constructing temporary wharves. It is likely to be a most

useful *aide-mémoire* for all officers in command of what we have learned to call "expeditionary forces."

The Reports of General Woodbury, Captain Spaulding, Captain Brainerd, and Captain Ketchum, treating mainly of road-making and bridge-building, require no particular notice, and the same may be said of Colonel Delafield's letter on the subject of mantlets, of Lieutenant Comstock's Report accompanying his Sketch of the fortifications at Gloucester Point, his Reports of his examination of the Confederate Lines on the Warwick River, once before and twice after their evacuation, and of Lieutenant McAlester's Reports on the character of the Confederate Works at Williamsburg and of a reconnoissance at Bottom's Bridge.

In Colonel Alexander's Personal Report, page 99, and in General Woodbury's Special Report of the operations of the Volunteer Engineer Brigade at White Oak Swamp Bridge, page 227, may be found a great deal of information in regard to the doings of our army during the trying period known as the "Seven Days," which will well reward the attention of the reader. The limits of this period are reckoned with less general agreement than might be expected in a matter so recent and so familiar. The sharp fighting began on Wednesday, June 25th, when we gained some ground on the left, with a loss of over five hundred men. Every succeeding day was a day of battles, until the battle of Malvern Hill had been fought, on Tuesday, July 1st. The victory gained there was so complete, that the enemy desisted from further attack, and our weary army moved unmolested, through the pouring rain, to the banks of the James, on Wednesday, July 2d.

General Barnard's Report of engineering operations at the siege of Yorktown, his Journal of the siege of Yorktown, with Memorandum of Batteries, and Report of positions of Guns and emplacement for Guns in the Fortress of Yorktown, are full of details, and are rather dry reading; but the careful student, with the aid of the Plan of the Siege, may extract from them much valuable information, hardly attainable elsewhere, as to its progress.

The last Engineer Report is Lieutenant McAlester's Report of the Battle of Williamsburg. It is of the greatest interest and value. It is very seldom that we can get so clear a glimpse at a battle as this Report gives us. Unfortunately for the reader, the writer's duties permitted him to see but a small part of the field and the fighting. If Captain Stewart and Lieutenant Farquhar made reports of what they saw and did on the right, they should by all means be included in a second edition of this volume.

Of General Barry's Report of the Organization of the Artillery of
VOL. XCVIII. — NO. 203. 39

the Army of the Potomac, it is sufficient to say that it is simple, straightforward, business-like, and satisfactory in the main. The student of the history of the army of the Potomac would be pleased to find in it some account of the progress of the work, from month to month; but General Barry contents himself with reporting what the field-artillery of the army of the Potomac comprised on the 25th of July, 1861, when he became its chief, and what it comprised when the army took the field, in March, 1862. His Report of the Artillery Operations at the Siege of Yorktown is mostly a table of batteries, with their armament, and a diary of the work done in and about them.

Valuable as is much of the material of which we have given a brief account, the maps which this volume contains possess an almost equal value. It is the best collection of which we have any knowledge, and many of the individual maps and plans are also the best we know. The "General Campaign Map," Plate I., is very good, and of convenient size. The publisher should see that, in another edition, Wynn's Mill, Alexander's Bridge, and Dr. Gaines's House are marked upon it. The official plan of the siege of Yorktown is most valuable; but this also would be made a great deal more serviceable by some very trifling additions, as, for instance, the marking of the Head-quarters of General Sumner, who commanded the left wing of the army during the siege. The map showing the position of Williamsburg, and the Plan of our line of Intrenchments before Richmond, are of great interest and value.

We have told what this handsome book contains, and here we should leave it, but that General Barnard's Report comprises a criticism of the plan and conduct of the Peninsular campaign more important, if not more severe, than any other that has appeared in print.

The Report, as has been stated, is dated January 26, 1863, and is addressed to the Chief of Staff of General McClellan, who was the commanding general during all the time to which it relates. General McClellan was relieved of his command in November, 1862, to the joy of many, to the regret of not a few. In the following year this book appeared. We are not told whether it was published by the order or with the permission of the War Department. There is no preface, no explanatory note. We are left in doubt in regard to the motive for publishing it, but its condemnation of General McClellan's policy and action is the more serious, as coming from one who is confessedly an accomplished soldier, and familiar with the matters of which he speaks.

This is not the place for a discussion of General McClellan's merits and demerits as a soldier. We must confine ourselves to a brief account of General Barnard's "Retrospect pointing out the mistakes that

were made, and thus tracing the Causes of Failure to their true sources." Of this "Retrospect," we may say generally that its author condemns in succession every prominent feature of the commanding general's plan and conduct. He assigns, as prominent among the causes of ultimate failure, the inaction of eight months, from August, 1861, to April, 1862, the adoption of the wrong line of operations against Richmond, the decision not to assault the lines of Yorktown, the failure to open our batteries on the place as fast as they were completed, the "blunder" of the battle of Williamsburg, the subsequent adhesion to the York, instead of connecting with the navy on the James, the slowness of the movement to the Chickahominy, the omission to take advantage of the repulse of the rebels at Fair Oaks, and the fault committed in not concentrating our army on one bank of the Chickahominy on the night before the battle of June 27th, 1862.

It must be borne in mind, that all these positive statements have been before the public for a long time, and have received no authoritative explanation, contradiction, or answer, until the publication of General McClellan's Report. The attentive reader will naturally compare the Reports of the commanding general and of his chief engineer.

The Peninsular campaign has long been ended, and we are gradually collecting materials which will enable us to form or correct our judgments of the ability with which the General commanding the Union forces planned and conducted it. General Barnard's Report will always hold a prominent place among these materials. The accomplishments and official position of the author, his clear style, his distinct and positive statements, the moderateness of his personal claims, and the generosity of his praise of the juniors of his corps, unite to entitle it to such a place.

12. — *A Manual of Spherical and Practical Astronomy.* By WILLIAM CHAUVENET, LL. D., Chancellor of Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.

THIS work of Professor Chauvenet will hold a high place among the works of American astronomers. Admirably adapted to the wants of American students, whose access to astronomical libraries and to memoirs in foreign languages is necessarily very limited, this work contains a fuller discussion of a greater number of problems in the sciences of astronomical observation and calculation, than have ever before been presented in a connected form in any language; and it cannot fail to be of the greatest service in stimulating to increased activity the astronomical talent of this country.